THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The Steering Committee on FDI, which was constituted by the Planning Commission, has *inter-alia* recommended enhancement of FDI limit in domestic airlines sector from 40% to 49% and allowing participation of foreign airline companies within this limit. The recommendations of the Committee, including the above, are under consideration of Government.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Operation of Indian commercial flights over Pakistan

629. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government of Pakistan has allowed Indian Commercial flights to operate over its skies;

(b) if not, whether there is an increase in passenger and cargo tariff as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether Government have plans to negotiate with the Pakistani authorities regarding the use of its skies for commercial flights; and

(d) if so, the details of the negotiations reached so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Government of India have lifted with effect from June 10,2002, all restrictions placed since January 1, 2002 on Pakistani Aircraft and Pakistani Airlines to overfly Indian territory subject to normal procedures for approval. Pakistan has, however, not yet responded to India's gesture.

(b) There has been no increase in tariff for commercial flights for passengers or cargo on account of avoiding Pakistani airspace by Indian carriers.

(c) and (d) There is no plan at present to hold bilateral negotiations with Pakistan.